

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TITLE: CONVEYOR BELT

Preliminary Amendment: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) Planar conveyor belt designed to move along curved trajectories, the conveyor belt comprising:

~~and consisting of~~ a plurality of chain-links (2) ~~including~~ having a succession of slots,
the slots being staggered at ~~the~~ a front (3) and at ~~the~~ a rear (4) of a central core (5), ~~a succession of~~
~~slots (6, 7) including,~~ each slot with an opening (8, 9) for the passage of a pivot pin (10, 11) ensuring
~~the~~ connection between two successive chain-links (2), at least ~~the~~ openings (8, 9) of the slots (6)
at the front (3) or ~~those (7)~~ the slots at the rear (4) being oblong in shape so as to ensure a backlash
in a longitudinal direction of a chain-link (2) with respect to another adjacent chain-link,
~~characterized in that wherein,~~ at least on ~~the~~ a side (14) external to ~~the~~ a curved trajectory ~~designed~~
to be followed by the conveyor belt (1), at least some of the chain-links (2) ~~include,~~ are comprised
of, in ~~their~~ a transverse extension thereof, a chain-link module (18) ~~including,~~ having slots staggered
at ~~the~~ a front (3A) and at ~~the~~ a rear (4A) of a central core (5A), said slots (6A, 7A) being comprised
of provided with an oblong opening (8A, 9A) ~~which end and ending,~~ at least on ~~the~~ an external most
distant side (30, 31) with respect to ~~the~~ a median plane (33) of the chain-link module (18), in a
semicircular sector (33) ~~the,~~ a center 34 of ~~which is~~ the sector being located on an axis 35, 36 convex

in shape of a considerable curve radius, exceeding one meter, ~~seen~~ with respect to ~~said~~ a median plane~~32~~.

2. (Currently amended) Planar conveyor belt designed to move along curved trajectories~~and~~ consisting of, the conveyor belt comprising:

a plurality of chain-links (2) ~~including, having a succession of slots~~ staggered at ~~the~~ a front (3) and at ~~the~~ a rear (4) of a central core (5), ~~a succession of slots (6, 7) including, each slot~~ with an opening (8, 9) for the passage of a pivot pin (10, 11) ensuring the connection between two successive chain-links (2), at least the openings (8, 9) of the slots (6) at the front (3) or those (7) the slots at the rear (4) being oblong in shape so as to ensure a backlash in a longitudinal direction of a chain-link (2) with respect to another adjacent chain-link, characterized in that wherein, at least on the a side (14) external to the a curved trajectory the conveyor belt is designed to follow (1), at least some of the chain-links (2) include, are comprised of, in their a transverse extension thereof, a chain-link module (18), consisting comprised of at least two intermediate chain-links (40, 41) including, having slots staggered at the front and at the rear of a central core (42, 43), slots (44, 45, 46, 47), those, said slots at the front (44), said slots respectively at the a rear (47); of the front (40), and a respectively rear (41) intermediate chain-link, being provided with an opening (3A, 9A) adapted to the a cylindrical cross-section of the a pivot pin (10, 11) crossing them, whereas the chain-links, wherein the slots at the rear (45), respectively at the front (45), of the front (40), respectively rear (41) intermediate chain-link, are provided with an oblong opening (48, 49) which, the opening ending ends, at least on the an external most distant side (50, 51) with respect to the a median plane (52, 53) of the corresponding intermediate chain-link (40, 41)s, in a semicircular sector (54, 55) the, a center (56, 57) of which is thereof being located on an axis (58, 59) convex in shape of a

considerable curve radius, exceeding one meter, seen with respect to said median plane, respectively (52; 53), these oblong openings (48; 49) being crossed by an intermediate pivot pin section (60).

3. (Currently amended) Planar conveyor belt designed to move along curved trajectories ~~and consisting of, the conveyor belt comprising:~~

a plurality of chain-links (2) ~~including, having a succession of slots~~ staggered at the ~~the~~ a front (3) and at the ~~a~~ rear (4) of a central core (5), ~~a succession of slots (6, 7) including, each slots~~ with an opening (8, 9) for the passage of a pivot pin (10, 11) ensuring the connection between two successive chain-links (2), at least the openings (8, 9) of the slots (6) at the front (3) or ~~those (7) at~~ the rear (4) being oblong in shape so as to ensure a backlash in a longitudinal direction of a chain-link (2) with respect to another adjacent chain-link, ~~characterized in that wherein,~~ at least on ~~the a~~ side (14) external to the curved trajectory ~~the conveyor belt (1) is designed to follow,~~ at least some of the chain-links (2) ~~include~~ comprise, in ~~their a~~ transverse extension thereof, a chain-link module (18) ~~including, with slots~~ staggered at the front (3A) and at the rear (4A) of a central core (5A), the slots (6A, 7A) being provided with an opening (8A, 9A) adapted to ~~the a~~ cylindrical cross-section of the pivot pin (10, 11) ~~crossing them,~~ the central core (5A) ~~of these chain-link modules (18) being~~ defined by two juxtaposed bars (19, 20), ~~of which the, a front bar (19) carries the carrying rear slots (7A) and the a rear bar (20) carries the carrying front slots (6A), these the bars (19, 20) adopting a~~ symmetric arrangement with respect to ~~the a~~ transverse median plane of a chain-link (2) and being defined by two juxtaposed bars (19, 20) ~~of which the front bar (19) carries carrying the rear slots (7A) and the rear bar (20) carries carrying the front slots (6A), these, the bars (19, 20) adopting a~~ symmetric arrangement with respect to the transverse median plane of a chain-link (2) and being convex in shape facing each other with a considerable curve radius, exceeding one meter.

4. (Currently amended) Conveyor belt according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the chain-link module (18) ~~consists~~ is comprised of two basic portions (31, 32) ~~designed to be fitted~~ fittable into each other.

5. (Currently amended) Conveyor belt according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, ~~characterized in that the~~ , wherein, due to length of the slots (6A, 7A) of a chain-link module (18) is so defined as to give to ~~the~~ basic portions (21, 22) ~~it is comprised of~~ said chain-link module have a relative mobility in a direction perpendicular to ~~its~~ a longitudinal median plane, ~~i.e. thereof,~~ in ~~the~~ a longitudinal direction ~~of the conveyor belt (1).~~

6. (Currently amended) Conveyor belt according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized ~~in that the~~ Claim 1, wherein a curve radius of the sides of convex shape of the bars (19, 20) or of the pins (34, 35 ; ~~58, 59~~) is ~~chosen~~ in the order of 3 meters.

7. (Currently amended) Conveyor belt according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized ~~in that~~ Claim 1, wherein a reinforcing chain-link module (18) is comprised ~~manufactured out of~~ plastic.